

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MASERU IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM IN LESOTHO

REFERENCE: STATE 180339

1. PER REFTEL FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM STATEMENTS BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN WHICH MAY BE OF USE TO YOU DURING LESOTHO SYMPOSIUM.
2. FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S STATEMENT TO UNSC OF OCTOBER 31, 1977: "IN PART BECAUSE MY OWN GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES ON THIS SUBJECT WE HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD OR DISTORTED IN SOUTH AFRICA, I BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT, AS WE TAKE THESE MAJOR STEPS, WE MAKE IT CLEAR TO SOUTH AFRICA WHAT WE ARE AND WHAT WE ARE NOT ASKING IT TO DO.

"FIRST, WE ARE NOT, AS SOME SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS CONTEND, ASKING THAT SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY DESTROY ITSELF. WITHOUT
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CONDONING THE PHILOSOPHICAL UNDERPINNING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN STATE, WE MUST ADMIRE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE TALENTED PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA, BLACK AND WHITE, IN DEVELOPING A MODERN INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY WHICH COULD, IF ITS LEADERS SO DESIRED, BRING GREAT BENEFITS NOT ONLY TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA BUT TO THE REST OF AFRICA AS WELL.

"SECOND, WE LAY OUT NO PRE-DETERMINED FORMULA FOR THE SOLUTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S PROBLEMS. THIRD, WE DO NOT ASK, NOR HAS ANY AFRICAN SPOKESMAN IN THIS COUNCIL, THAT WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS FORSAKE THE COUNTRY THEY HAVE HELPED TO BUILD. WHAT WE DO CHALLENGE IS THE BLANKET DENIAL OF THE RIGHTS OF THE BLACK MAJORITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SHAPING OF THEIR DESTINY, A DENAIL WHICH NOT ONLY VIOLATES THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA UNDER THE CHARTER BUT WHICH ALSO POSES GRAVE THREATS TO STABILITY AND PEACE. WE HOPE THAT WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS CAN UNDERSTAND THAT THE AIM OF MY GOVERNMENT, AND I BELIEVE OF THIS ORGANIZATION, HAS BEEN AND REMAINS TO HELP SOUTH AFRICA EMBARK ON A NEW COURSE, A COURSE AIMED AT ENDING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MORE JUST SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ORDER.

"THE OUTSIDE WORLD CAN HELP, BUT THE ANSWER TO SOUTH AFRICA'S PROBLEMS MUST BE FOUND BY SOUTH AFRICANS THEMSELVES. A DIALOGUE MUST BE STARTED AMONG ALL THE PEOPLES OF SOUTH AFRICA WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING A MORE JUST AND STABLE SOCIETY. FAILING THAT, WE CAN SEE ONLY HEIGHTENED DANGER AND A CONTINUING THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF ALL IN THE REGION.

"I WISH TO UNDERSCORE THAT THE PURPOSE OF OUR POLICY IS NOT TO EXCLUDE SOUTH AFRICA OR TO ISOLATE IT FROM THE REST
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OF THE WORLD. WE ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE THE KIND OF CHANGE WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA THAT WILL PERMIT IT TO PLAY THE ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT IT DESERVES. YET, BY THEIR POLICIES OF INCREASING RACIAL OPPRESSION, THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS ARE SUCCEEDING IN PROGRESSIVELY ISOLATING THEIR COUNTRY FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD. THIS PROCESS, IF ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, WILL LEAD TO A SITUATION IN WHICH COOPERATION BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD IN ANY AREA WILL BE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE."

3. FROM AMBASSADOR MC HENRY'S STATEMENT TO UNGA PLENARY NOVEMBER 17, 1977: "MY OWN GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES HAVE BEEN STATED IN DETAIL BY PRESIDENT CARTER, BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, BY OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS AND BY THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. WE OPPOSE APARTHEID AND EVERYTHING FOR WHICH IT STANDS. APARTHEID IS A BLIGHT UPON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA AND ON THE HISTORY OF MANKIND. WE HAVE SOLEMNLY WARNED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT FAILURE TO END RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD FULL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION WOULD RESULT IN A DETERIORATION OF OUR RELATIONS. AND, IN LIGHT OF THE EVIDENTLY CONSCIOUS

DECISION OF THAT GOVERNMENT NOT TO CHANGE ITS COURSE BUT

IN FACT TO MOVE MASSIVELY IN THE DIRECTION OF FURTHER
REPRESSION, THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN A SERIES OF STEPS
TO GIVE EFFECT TO OUR WARNING.

"IN THE UNITED NATIONS WE SUPPORTED MAKING MANDATORY THE
VOLUNTARY EMBARGO ON ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH THE
UNITED STATES HAS OBSERVED SINCE 1963. WITHIN HOURS OF
THE DECISION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE UNITED STATES
MOVED TO PREVENT ANY SHIPMENT OF SPARE PARTS WHICH WERE
DESTINED FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

"BILATERALLY, WE HAVE TAKEN ADDITIONAL STEPS TOWARD BRING-
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ING OUR RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA INTO LINE WITH THOSE
VALUES AND INTERESTS WHICH WE HAVE IN COMMON. THOSE STEPS
INCLUDE THE WITHDRAWAL OF OUR NAVAL ATTACHE AND, IN RE-
LATION TO A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS
WITH SOUTH AFRICA, THE RECALL OF OUR COMMERCIAL OFFICER IN
JOHANNESBURG.

"THE QUESTION ARISES WHAT CAN WE IN THIS ORGANIZATION DO
TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THESE TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES.

-- WE MUST RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO EMPHASIZE COERCIVE
AND PUNITIVE MEASURES BUT WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE
FACT THAT, FAR FROM INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WE
AND SOUTH AFRICA HAVE SOLEMN OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE UNITED
NATIONS CHARTER TO PROMOTE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND
TO PRESERVE INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

-- WE MUST REASSURE SOUTH AFRICA -- AS AFRICA DID IN
THE LUSAKA MANIFESTO ALMOST 9 YEARS AGO -- THAT WE STAND
READY TO BE OF EVERY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE AND TO MAINTAIN
THE WARMEST OF RELATIONS. BUT SOUTH AFRICA CAN NEVER
EXPECT NORMAL AND WARM RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY OF
NATIONS SO LONG AS IT INSISTS ON FOLLOWING PRACTICES SO
UNIVERSALLY REPUGNANT.

-- WE MUST MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
THAT WE RECOGNIZE THAT HISTORY AND CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE COM-
BINED TO CREATE A UNIQUE PROBLEM OF GREAT COMPLEXITY NOT
CAPABLE OF EASY OR INSTANTANEOUS SOLUTION. BUT WE MUST
ALSO STATE THAT THE RESOLUTION OF EVERY PROBLEM REQUIRES
A BEGINNING AND EXPRESS OUR VIEW THAT THE SITUATION IS SUCH
THAT BOLD STATESMANSHIP IS NOW ESSENTIAL.

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"-- WE MUST INSIST THAT THE WELL BEING OF SOUTH AFRICANS IS OUR PRIMARY GOAL AND WARN AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS IN ORDER TO REAP IDEOLOGICAL OR POLITICAL ADVANTAGE. BUT WE MUST BE EQUALLY INSISTENT THAT

IDEOLOGICAL FEARS CANNOT BE USED AS AN EXCUSE TO DELAY NECESSARY CHANGES.

"-- WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS A LASTING SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTH AFRICA MUST EMERGE FROM A DIALOGUE AMONG ALL OF THE CITIZENS OF THAT COUNTRY. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS NO MORE RIGHT TO IMPOSE A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION ON THAT COUNTRY THAN DOES SOUTH AFRICA'S WHITE MINORITY HAVE THE RIGHT TO IMPOSE UPON THE BLACK MAJORITY.

"-- FINALLY, WE MUST RETAIN OUR HOPE THAT THE SPIRAL OF REPRESSION AND VIOLENCE WILL END, THAT SOUTH AFRICANS WILL FINALLY REALIZE THAT JUST AS OTHER SOCIETIES, MY OWN INCLUDED, FOUND IT POSSIBLE TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD THE RESOLUTION OF THE SEEMINGLY INTRACTABLE, SO CAN SOUTH AFRICANS, PROVIDED THEY WILL."

4. WE ARE REPEATING OTHER CABLES ON THIS GENERAL SUBJECT TO MASERU FOR STONEY COOKS. CHRISTOPHER

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